

Come sail away...



In addition to wet slips, Rainbow Bay Marina provides eligible patrons with a dry storage yard to house their boats, kayaks or other watercraft.

Rainbow Bay Marina offers fun for Sailors, families on Pearl Harbor

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For some, there is a thrill to seeing a sail unfurl as the wind catches it and carries them along in a sailboat. For others, there is excitement in propelling along in a one-person kayak. For these people and others like them, Rainbow Bay Marina is the place to go to take to Pearl Harbor.

Located under the Ford Island Bridge, the marina offers sailboats of various sizes as well as kayaks and a host of activities to enjoy for Sailors, other military members, DoD civilians and their families.

"It's a great lifetime sport," said Gerald Hamilton, Moral Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) Outdoor Program Director, about sailing. "In many cases, people can do it with almost any health conditions. They can do it alone or in groups, for recreation or in competition."

Rainbow Bay offers sailboats as small as eight feet long and as large as 22 feet long. There are also single and double kayaks available for rent. People with the proper MWR privileges can rent wet slips or leave their boats in dry storage. If anyone has a boat and wants to live aboard in Pearl Harbor, Rainbow Bay does offer that option. There are electrical, phone and cable TV hookups at each wet slip. The marina also offers a laundromat, "pump a head" services, ice and drop off facilities for used bat-

teries, used oil or diesel. Prices vary by the size of the boat.

For anyone who would rather leave the driving to someone else and just go out fishing, Rainbow Bay offers deep-sea fishing charters. According to their literature, "Tackle and bait is provided. All you need to bring is food and drink." There are full and half-day charters available.

For those interested in either sailing or kayaking, but have no experience, there are lessons available. Rainbow Bay offers adult sailing lessons Saturdays and Sundays. The cost is \$75 per person and includes four four-hour lessons. By the end, successful participants will receive a U.S. Sailing Association Certificate. The classes are free for single Sailors.

For individuals who would rather have one-on-one lessons, Rainbow Bay offers private sailing lessons at \$20 per hour. For ladies, Tuesdays are set aside for "wahine sailing" from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. or sunset. The cost is \$5 per boat and ladies can choose either the Rhodes 19-foot or Laser 13-foot boat.

After becoming certified, individuals are cleared to rent sailboats from the marina and sail them around Pearl Harbor any day of the week. Before anyone takes a boat out, whether certified or not, marina personnel give a safety brief and go over off-limits areas. All sailboats are fully outfitted with necessary safety equipment. Once outfitted and briefed, individuals are cleared to sail around the harbor, something they have not been able to do since Sept. 11, 2001.

Once people become more skilled and comfortable at sailing or operating other watercraft available at the marina, Hamilton encourages them to join the Pearl Harbor Yacht Club, which sometimes sails to Molokai on three-day weekends, or one of the other clubs based at Rainbow Bay Marina. In addition to the yacht club, Rainbow Bay hosts a fishing club, the Pearl Harbor Trollers, for individuals who are into deep-sea fishing, an outrigger canoe club and a swim club at the nearby Richardson Pool. In the near future, there will also be full-service scuba diving shop available at the marina.

"These clubs let people take their hobby to the next level," Hamilton said.

Recently, the yacht club, in conjunction with



Kevin English rigs a Laser 13-foot sailboat March 6 at Rainbow Bay Marina. The marina rents a variety of sailboats to active duty military members, reservists, retirees, DoD civilians and their families, Monday through Friday.

MWR, hosted a Laser Regatta. A Laser is a 14-foot Olympic-class sailboat. This was the first such race in Pearl Harbor since Sept. 11 and was not limited to service members and DoD civilians. Rather, it was a Hawaii Yacht Racing Association (HYRA)-sanctioned event. HYRA racers executed a series of races throughout the day.

For everything available to grown ups on the island, there are equal opportunities for the younger crowd. Rainbow Bay offers youth sailing classes and a variety of youth activities comparable to those offered to adults.

In addition, Rainbow Bay Marina offers party patios and a wide array of packages for command functions. Hamilton said one local command would be hosting a command function using several facilities. He said the

command will have its own mini-triathlon. Participants will break up into four-person teams. One person will swim a set amount in Richardson Pool, then tag a teammate who will run through the woods trail and back to the harbor. There, the runner will tag a two-person team who will kayak a course in Pearl Harbor. Hamilton said the command function is just another way for people to enjoy the many facilities available.

"It's all good fun," Hamilton said. "I just want Sailors and their families to know that we're here to help them to have fun."

Anyone interested in command picnics, parties, sailing lessons or any of the services and activities available at Rainbow Bay Marina can call them at 473-0279. Rainbow Bay is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.



Top: Canadian Navy Sailor Ian Torrie readies his sailboat March 6 at Rainbow Bay Marina. Torrie was there with Air Force Tech. Sgt. Tom English to enjoy an afternoon of sailing on Pearl Harbor.

Bottom: Sailors get ready to take their boats out on Pearl Harbor March 6.



Boats sit in slips on Pearl Harbor at Rainbow Bay Marina. Eligible patrons can berth their boats there and have cable TV, phone and various other services available by connecting through the white boxes which are available at each slip.